

Age of First Use among Primary Admissions for Drugs in Kentucky: 2001-2007.

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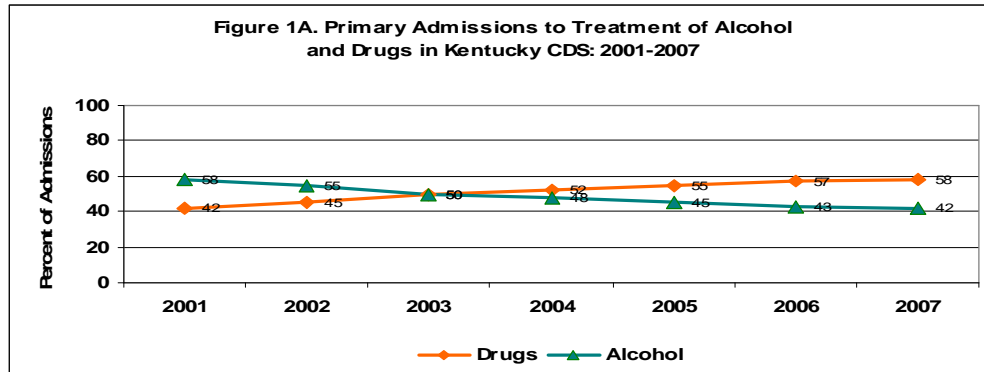
In Brief

- The average age of first use of drugs had slightly increased from 19.4 in 2001 to 20.3 years old in 2007.**
- The younger ages before 25 years old reported larger percentages of first use of drugs than the ages after 25 years old (79% vs. 21% in 2001; 77% vs. 33% in 2007).**
- The average age of first use of marijuana was about 15 years old and remained unchanged from 2001 to 2007.**
- Between 2001 and 2006, the average age of first use slightly increased for all groups who reported different prior treatment episodes in the past.**

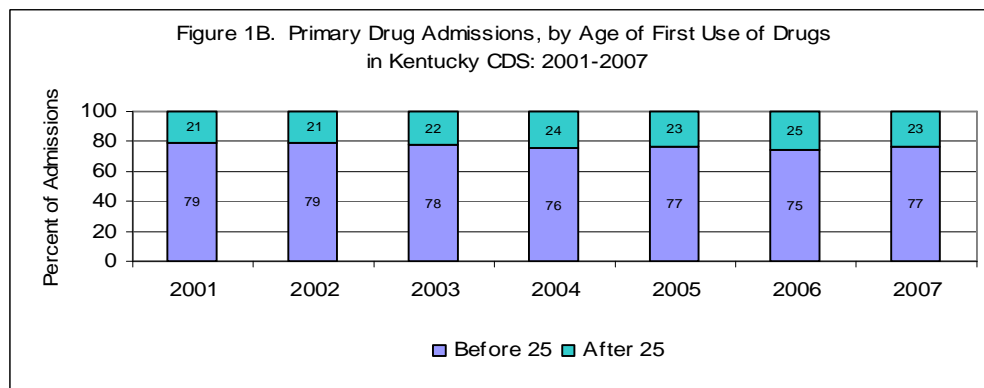
This report examines the age of first use among admissions for drugs based on the Kentucky Client Data Set¹ for fiscal years from 2001 to 2007. Age of first use is defined differently for alcohol than for drugs. For alcohol, age of first use identifies the age of first intoxication; for drugs, age of first use identifies the age at which the respective drug was use².

Age of First Use of Drug

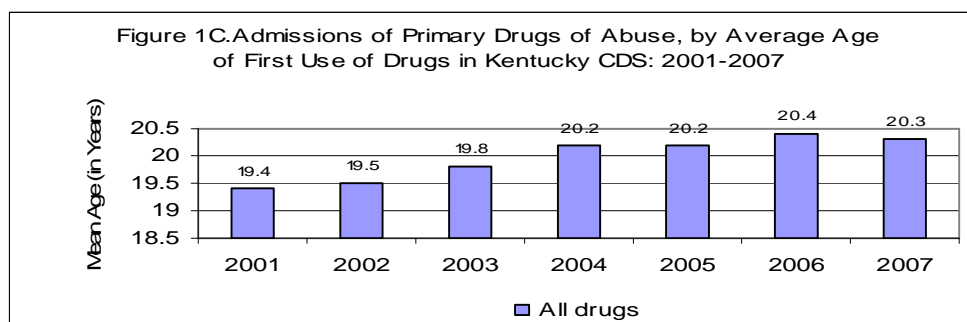
Primary admissions³ to treatment of drug abuse had substantially increased from 42 percent in 2001 to 58 percent in 2007, whereas primary admissions to treatment of alcohol had visibly dropped from 58 percent to 42 percent during the same year period (Fig 1A and Table 1A in Appendix).



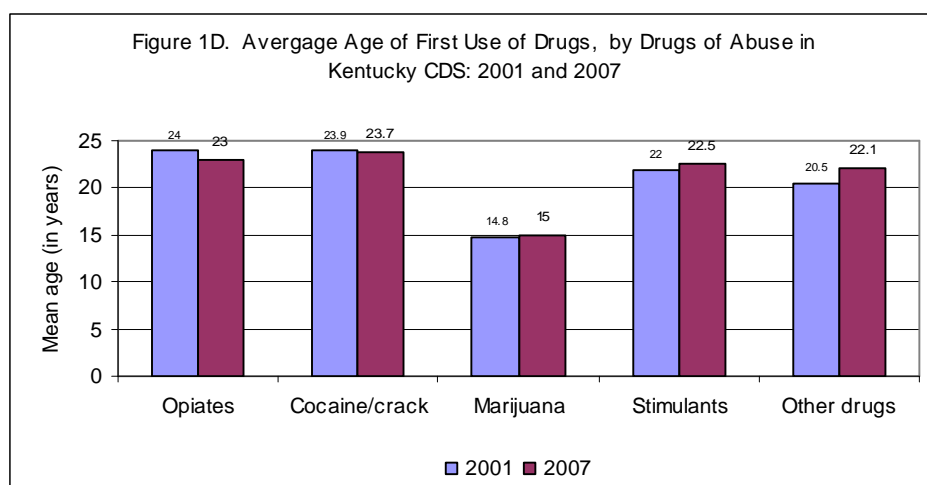
The younger ages before 25 years old reported larger percentages of first use of drugs than the ages after 25 years old (75% vs. 25% in 2001; 81% vs. 19% in 2007). Specifically examined, among treatment admissions, the younger ages before 25 years old reported substantially larger percentages of first use of marijuana (98% vs. 2% in 2001; 97% vs. 3% in 2007), stimulants (70% vs. 30% in 2001; 67% vs. 33% in 2007), opiates (61% vs. 39% in 2001; 67% vs. 33% in 2007), and cocaine (59% vs. 41% in 2001; 63% vs. 33% in 2007) than the age group after 25 years old (Table 1B in Appendix).



The average age of first use of drugs had slightly increased from 19.4 in 2001 to 20.3 years old in 2007 (Figure 1C and Table 1D in Appendix).

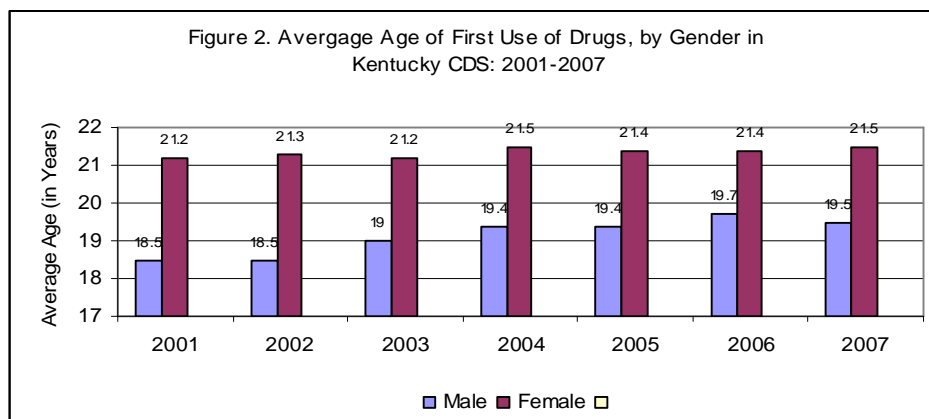


More specifically, in 2001, the average age of first use that reported as youngest at 14.8 years old was marijuana, followed by stimulants at 22.1 years old, cocaine at 23.9 years old, and opiates at 24.0 years old. In 2007, the average age of first use had slightly increased to 15.0 for marijuana and 22.5 for stimulants, but slightly dropped to 23.7 for cocaine and 23.0 years old for opiates (Figures 1D and Table 1C in Appendix).

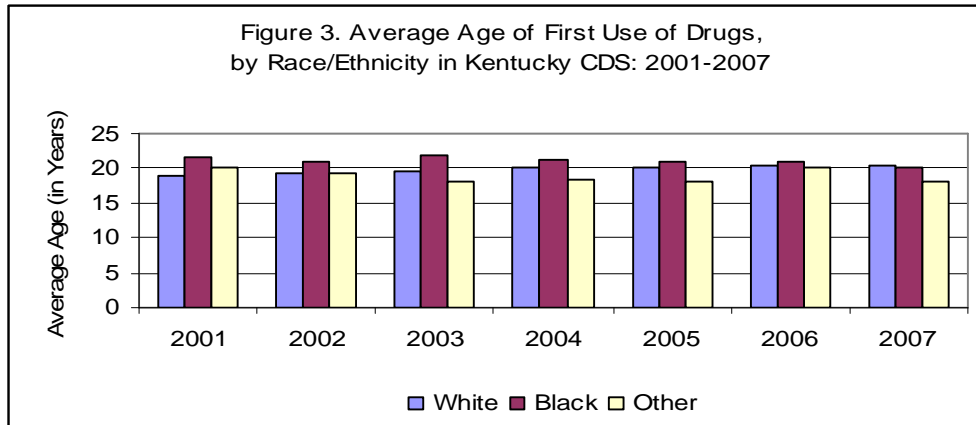


Demographic Characteristics

The average age of first use of drugs had increased from 18.5 to 19.5 years old for males and from 21.2 to 21.5 years old for females between 2001 and 2007 (Figures 2 and Table 2 in Appendix).

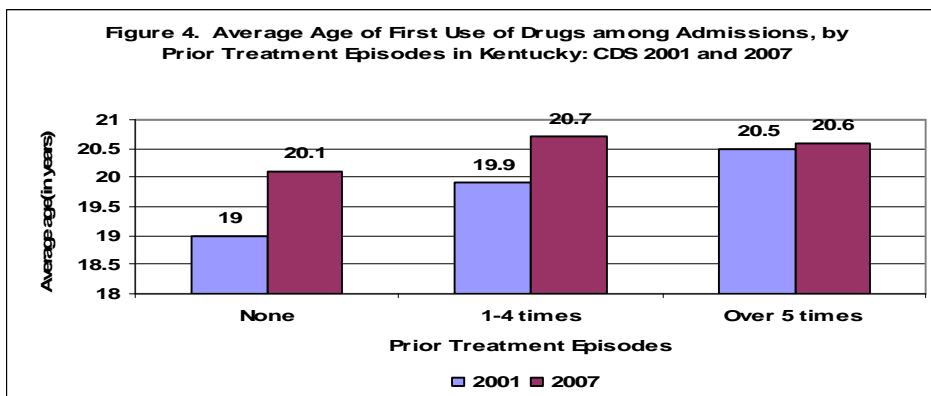


Between those two years, the average age of first use was likely to increase among Whites (19.1 vs. 20.4 years old); however, it was likely to decrease among Blacks (22.0 vs. 20.9 years old) and others (17.9 vs. 19.7 years old) (Figures 3 and Table 3 in Appendix).



Prior Treatments

Between 2001 and 2007, the average age of first use had increased for all groups with different times of previous treatments: 19.1 vs. 20.2 years old for first time treatment, 19.9 vs. 20.9 years old for 1 to 2 prior treatments, 20.8 vs. 20.9 years old for 3 to 4 prior treatments, and 20.5 vs. 21.6 years old for the group with 5 or over prior treatments (Figures 3.1A, 3.1B and Table 3.1 in Appendix).



Notes:

¹This report is based on data selected from the Kentucky Client Data Set (CDS), fiscal years 2001-2006, collected from 14 Community Mental Health Centers in Kentucky and maintained by the University of Kentucky's Research and Data Management Center (UK-RDMC).

²Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) Highlights – 2003, SAMHSA, Drug and Alcohol Services Information System Series: S-27, p. 31. For age of first use of alcohol/intoxication in Kentucky, see the report on Age of First Use of Alcohol among Primary Alcohol Admissions Aged 21 or Older in Kentucky: CDS, FY 2001-2006.

³Primary substance of abuse is the main substance reported at the time of admission.

Table 1A. Treatment Admissions, by Primary Substance of Abuse in Kentucky CDS: 2001-2007*. Number and Percent Distribution.

Primary Admissions of Substances of Abuse**	All admi s- si ons	Alcohol	Opiates	Cocaine/ Crack	Mari- juana	Stimu- lants	Other Drugs
2001 Admissions	14,195	57.8	8.3	8.8	19.3	2.1	3.7
2002 Admissions	14,110	55.3	9.0	8.4	20.7	3.0	3.6
2003 Admissions	17,461	50.2	10.7	11.9	20.1	3.5	3.6
2004 Admissions	16,724	47.7	12.2	12.8	19.0	4.7	3.6
2005 Admissions	14,934	45.3	12.2	13.5	19.6	5.7	3.7
2006 Admissions	17,706	42.5	13.8	14.2	20.0	5.7	3.8
2007 Admissions	15,334	42.1	16.3	11.8	19.3	5.8	4.6

*SOURCE: Data were computed from Kentucky Client Data Set 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown primary substance of abuse.

Primary substance of abuse is the main substance reported at the time of treatment admission.

Table 1B. Treatment Admissions, by Primary Drugs of Abuse and Age at First Use of Drugs in Kentucky CDS: 2001-2007*. Number and Percent Distribution (Column Percent).

Primary Admissions of Drugs of Abuse by Age at First Use**	All admi- sions	Opiates	Cocaine/ Crack	Mari- juana	Stimu- lants	Other Drugs
2001 Admissions						
Under 18	52.9	23.7	20.7	84.1	30.9	45.0
18-24	26.1	37.0	38.2	13.4	39.6	30.5
25-34	14.9	27.5	29.9	1.9	20.8	15.8
35+	6.1	11.7	11.2	0.5	8.7	8.7
Totals	5,995	1,185	1,243	2,738	298	531
2002 Admissions						
Under 18	52.6	21.6	20.9	83.2	29.7	45.8
18-24	26.4	38.9	40.3	14.1	35.5	25.7
25-34	14.7	25.6	28.3	2.1	25.9	19.4
35+	6.4	14.0	10.5	0.6	8.9	9.0
Totals	6,302	1,268	1,181	2,927	417	509
2003 Admissions						
Under 18	49.5	24.0	22.5	83.3	30.8	43.4
18-24	28.1	39.4	38.1	14.4	36.3	30.2
25-34	15.8	25.2	28.6	1.8	23.2	16.9
35+	6.6	11.4	10.8	0.6	9.7	9.5
Totals	8,692	1,864	2,078	3,517	611	622
2004 Admissions						
Under 18	47.2	24.6	23.8	83.8	27.7	39.5
18-24	29.0	39.5	38.8	13.2	37.3	31.2
25-34	16.6	24.4	26.8	2.4	24.2	19.5
35+	7.2	11.6	10.7	0.7	10.9	9.8
Totals	8,746	2,042	2,148	3,170	781	605
2005 Admissions						
Under 18	46.3	23.7	22.2	83.7	28.2	37.5
18-24	30.3	41.1	39.3	14.1	39.8	33.3
25-34	16.1	24.2	27.4	1.8	19.6	18.6
35+	7.3	10.9	11.1	0.4	12.4	10.6
Totals	8,176	1,820	2,023	2,934	850	549
2006 Admissions						
Under 18	44.7	22.6	21.5	83.6	27.9	32.7
18-24	30.8	42.2	40.0	13.9	37.9	33.6
25-34	16.9	24.8	26.6	1.8	22.5	22.8
35+	7.5	10.4	11.9	0.6	11.6	10.9
Totals	10,177	2,438	2,519	3,537	1,013	670
2007 Admissions						
Under 18	45.3	25.6	22.9	83.0	28.7	36.2
18-24	31.5	41.6	40.6	14.5	38.3	34.6
25-34	16.0	23.1	24.6	1.8	24.2	18.9
35+	7.2	9.8	12.0	0.7	8.7	10.3
Totals	8,885	2,507	1,815	2,963	892	708

*SOURCE: Data were computed from Kentucky Client Data Set 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown primary substance of abuse or unknown/invalid age at admission.

Table 1C. Treatment Admissions, by Primary Drugs of Abuse and Mean Age at First Use of Drugs in Kentucky CDS: 2001-2007*. Mean Age in Years.

3

Average Age of First Use of Drugs**	All admissions	Opiates	Cocaine/ Crack	Marijuana	Stimulants	Other Drugs
2001 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.1	14.7	13.8	12.8	14.9	14.5
18-24	15.8	18.3	17.5	14.6	17.9	16.5
25-34	19.9	23.4	21.9	15.4	22.3	20.9
35 or over	25.5	30.1	28.5	17.0	27.0	25.2
All Ages	19.4	24.0	23.9	14.8	22.1	20.5
2002 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.2	14.5	15.2	13.0	14.7	13.1
18-24	15.9	18.1	17.7	14.6	17.6	16.8
25-34	19.8	23.4	21.7	15.6	22.6	20.5
35 or over	25.7	31.4	27.7	17.1	29.6	27.4
All Ages	19.5	24.4	23.5	15.0	22.9	21.1
2003 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.1	14.6	15.2	12.8	14.4	13.5
18-24	15.9	18.0	17.5	14.4	17.5	16.9
25-34	19.7	22.8	21.3	15.3	21.9	20.5
35 or over	25.6	30.4	27.4	17.1	28.3	26.4
All Ages	19.8	23.5	23.7	15.0	22.6	21.1
2004 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.2	14.7	15.4	13.0	13.9	13.1
18-24	16.0	17.9	17.7	14.3	17.3	16.6
25-34	19.9	22.7	21.0	15.4	21.9	21.0
35 or over	26.3	31.1	27.4	17.0	30.6	28.0
All Ages	20.2	23.4	23.4	15.0	23.0	21.6
2005 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.2	14.5	14.9	13.0	14.9	13.9
18-24	16.1	17.8	17.8	14.4	17.3	17.0
25-34	19.9	22.4	21.2	15.4	21.4	20.9
35 or over	26.4	30.4	27.4	16.7	30.9	29.3
All Ages	20.2	23.3	23.6	14.9	22.9	21.9
2006 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.3	14.5	15.0	13.1	14.4	13.9
18-24	16.1	17.8	18.0	14.3	17.3	16.9
25-34	19.9	22.4	21.5	15.3	21.4	21.8
35 or over	26.6	30.9	27.5	16.8	29.9	30.6
All Ages	20.4	23.3	23.9	14.9	23.0	22.7
2007 Mean Age of First Use						
Under 18	13.3	14.3	15.1	13.0	14.7	14.0
18-24	16.2	17.6	17.8	14.4	17.2	17.1
25-34	19.9	22.2	21.2	15.3	21.3	20.9
35 or over	26.6	32.4	27.4	17.0	28.9	29.6
All Ages	20.3	23.0	23.7	15.0	22.5	22.1

*SOURCE: Data were computed from Kentucky Client Data Set 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown primary substance of abuse or unknown/invalid age at admission.

Table 1D. Age of First Use and Average Age of First Use of Drugs, by Age at Admission in Kentucky CDS: 2001-2007*. Percent Distribution and Mean Age of First Use of Drugs (in Year).

Age of First Use and Mean Age of First Use of Drugs**	Age at Admission				All ages
	< 18	18-24	25-34	35 +	
2001					
Age of First Use (Pct)	52.9	26.1	14.9	6.1	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.1	15.8	19.9	25.5	19.4
2002					
Age of First Use (Pct)	55.3	27.7	15.4	6.7	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.2	15.9	19.8	25.7	19.5
2003					
Age of First Use (Pct)	71.7	40.7	22.9	9.6	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.1	15.9	19.7	25.6	19.8
2004					
Age of First Use (Pct)	68.8	42.3	24.3	10.5	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.2	16.0	19.9	26.3	20.2
2005					
Age of First Use (Pct)	63.1	41.3	22.0	10.0	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.2	16.1	19.9	26.4	20.2
2006					
Age of First Use (Pct)	76.0	52.3	28.7	12.8	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.3	16.1	19.9	26.6	20.4
2007					
Age of First Use (Pct)	67.2	46.6	23.8	10.6	100.0
Average Age (Yrs)	13.3	16.2	19.9	26.6	20.3

*Sources: The Client Data Set, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown/invalid age.

Table 2. Primary Drug Admissions, by Age of First Use of Drugs and Gender in Kentucky CDS: FY 2001-2007*. Percent Distribution and Mean Age of First Use of Drugs (in Year).

5

Primary Drug Admissions of Gender**	Age of First Use of Drugs					Mean Age
	All Ages	< 18	18-24	25-34	35 +	
2001						
Male	67.0	75.0	60.8	53.8	56.0	18.5
Female	33.0	25.0	39.2	46.2	44.0	21.2
2002						
Male	65.4	73.7	59.9	51.5	52.6	18.5
Female	34.6	26.3	40.1	48.5	47.4	21.3
2003						
Male	62.1	69.8	57.0	49.4	56.4	19.0
Female	37.9	30.1	43.0	50.6	43.6	21.2
2004						
Male	60.2	68.6	53.9	49.6	55.6	19.4
Female	39.6	31.2	45.9	50.4	44.4	21.5
2005						
Male	59.5	67.4	53.7	48.5	57.5	19.4
Female	40.2	32.2	46.0	51.4	42.2	21.4
2006						
Male	57.4	64.9	52.3	47.8	54.6	19.7
Female	42.5	35.0	47.6	52.1	45.4	21.4
2007						
Male	56.2	64.5	51.0	45.9	49.5	19.5
Female	43.8	35.5	49.0	54.1	50.5	21.5

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown/not specified primary drugs of abuse or unknown gender.

Table 3. Primary Drug Admissions, by Age of First Use of Drugs and Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky CDS: FY 2001-2007*. Percent Distribution and Mean Age of First Use of Drugs (in Years).

6

Primary Drug Admissions of Race/Ethnicity**	Age of First Use of Drugs					Mean Age
	All Ages	< 18	18-24	25-34	35 +	
2001						
White	85.4	89.4	83.0	78.8	77.9	19.1
Black	13.4	9.7	15.6	19.8	20.8	21.6
Other	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	20.2
2002						
White	86.6	89.0	84.7	83.1	82.8	19.3
Black	12.0	9.6	14.1	15.7	15.5	20.9
Other	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.7	19.2
2003						
White	82.7	86.3	80.6	77.3	78.3	19.5
Black	15.7	11.9	17.7	21.7	21.0	21.7
Other	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.0	0.7	18.1
2004						
White	83.6	85.8	82.8	79.2	82.6	20.0
Black	15.1	12.7	15.8	19.8	16.9	21.3
Other	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.5	18.4
2005						
White	83.8	85.2	84.1	78.6	85.5	20.1
Black	14.7	13.1	14.5	20.4	13.6	20.9
Other	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.8	18.2
2006						
White	85.0	85.8	85.0	82.4	86.0	20.4
Black	14.0	13.1	14.0	16.7	13.0	20.9
Other	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	20.0
2007						
White	89.1	89.1	89.1	88.8	90.2	20.3
Black	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.7	9.6	20.1
Other	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.2	18.0

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown/not specified primary drugs of abuse or unknown race/ethnicity.

Table 4. Primary Drug Admissions, by Age of First Use of Drugs and Prior Treatment Episodes in Kentucky CDS: FY 2001-2007*. Percent Distribution and Mean Age of First Use of Drugs (in Years).

7

Prior Treatment Episodes**	Age of First Use of Drugs					Mean Age
	All Ages	< 18	18-24	25-34	35 +	
2001						
None	57.0	61.6	52.8	47.7	58.7	19.0
1-4 times	40.3	36.5	43.9	48.1	39.3	19.9
5+ times	2.7	2.0	3.3	4.3	2.1	20.5
2002						
None	57.2	61.4	55.1	46.5	56.2	19.0
1-4 times	40.6	36.8	42.3	49.9	42.7	20.2
5+ times	2.3	1.8	2.6	3.6	1.1	20.1
2003						
None	59.0	63.8	58.0	46.7	57.1	19.3
1-4 times	37.3	33.2	38.0	48.4	38.7	20.6
5+ times	3.7	3.0	4.0	4.9	4.2	20.9
2004						
None	60.0	63.4	57.8	54.6	59.3	19.9
1-4 times	36.5	33.2	38.6	41.8	37.8	20.8
5+ times	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	2.9	19.8
2005						
None	60.2	64.5	57.7	52.9	59.4	19.8
1-4 times	35.8	32.0	38.4	41.9	36.2	20.8
5+ times	4.0	3.5	4.0	5.2	4.4	21.0
2006						
None	62.1	66.1	59.4	57.4	60.3	20.1
1-4 times	34.5	31.4	36.5	38.7	35.7	20.9
5+ times	3.3	2.5	4.1	4.0	3.9	21.7
2007						
None	59.9	62.9	58.3	55.9	56.8	20.1
1-4 times	37.1	34.3	38.6	40.1	40.8	20.7
5+ times	3.0	2.7	3.1	4.0	2.4	20.6

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown/not specified primary drugs of abuse or unknown number of prior treatments.